

REMARKS

In the Official Action, the Examiner stated that Applicant's reply dated September 10, 2004 was not fully responsive to the rejection under Section 112, paragraph 2, in view of additional amendments required as to Claims 1, 12 and 25 to provide antecedent basis for "it" as it appears in step d) of each respective claim.

Applicant, however, points out that its intention to amend the relevant portions of these claims to provide the requisite antecedent basis was clearly stated in its "Remarks" portion of its September 10, 2004 reply. Indeed, Applicant did then address the requirement raised pursuant to §112, contrary to the Examiner's contention, but inadvertently did not incorporate three of the requisite changes into its amendment of the claims. Applicant is unconvinced that three clearly inadvertent instances over thirty-five where the term "it" was not suitably amended (despite Applicant's clear stated intent to comply with the Examiner's requirement) justified an exercise of discretion to apparently postpone action on Applicant's 23 page reply as "not fully responsive." This is especially so where Applicant's reply addressed in detail two separate grounds for rejection based on § § 102 and 103, each having no apparent connection to or relevance with the §112 amendment sought by the Examiner.

Nonetheless, Applicant herewith has clarified its earlier amendment to set forth the requisite antecedent basis in each of the referenced claims and submits its amendment now satisfies the outstanding requirement as set forth. No new matter has been added.

Applicant directs the Examiner to its Reply dated September 10, 2004 and its detailed traversal of each rejection presented therein, respectfully requesting these grounds for traversal now receive favorable consideration. Applicant therefore submits that the claims presented are

allowable and respectfully requests early and prompt action by the Examiner in passing the Application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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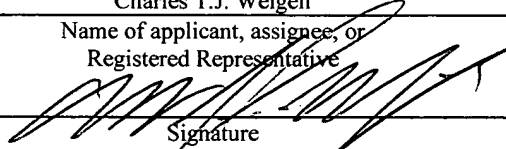
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